## Dragon Newsletter

June, 2006 Edition



Dear Dragon Families and Friends,

Well, I'm back from my EML and have to say it was a great break. I was able to see some of the families and Soldiers in the Rear D, and I have to say that EVERYONE looked terrific. One of the perks of military service is that we get the opportunity to travel to exotic lands and meet new and interesting people...but the best part is always

going home. Even coming back to Taji wasn't difficult, because we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. This break reminds us why we serve, and why we'll complete what we have to look forward to.

Summer is in full force in Iraq, and temperatures are pushing 120 degrees. Despite this, morale is still high, especially now that we have passed the halfway mark for the deployment. Coalition Forces have eliminated the terrorist leader al-Zarqawi and captured many of his henchmen; this accomplish-

ment is yet another victory for the Ivy Division, and our Soldiers contributed greatly to the effort that made it possible. I know you share in the pride I feel for each of our Dragons.

We say goodbye this month to MAJ Pat Sweeney as he sets off on his new assignment as the Brigade Aviation Officer for 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT in FOB (Forward Operating Base) Kalsu. MAJ Sweeney served 1-4 as both the Battalion S3 and Battalion Executive Officer over the past 18 months. Although it is tough to say goodbye to him, we know he will continue to excel and do great things at his new home with the "Warhorse" Brigade. MAJ Sweeney and Coleen will always be members of the Dragon family, and we thank them for all of their hard work. We offer a warm welcome to our new Executive Officer, MAJ Chris Watrud, who actually comes to us from Kalsu. He and his wife

Karen served with Susan and I in Germany and they will be a great addition to the battalion.

As you've no doubt heard, President Bush paid Baghdad a surprise visit this month to show support to the new Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. During the President's visit the Green Dragons provided aerial security, allowing the President and his staff safe passage through Baghdad.



CSM Morant, PFC Thompson and LTC Rapavi after the Asian-Pacific Program

In other news, we finished our first Four-on-Four basketball tournament this month, with all the companies forming teams for the tournament. Although all teams played hard, the Delta "DAWGS" took the championship, defeating Echo Company in the finals. Although the Sergeant Major and I couldn't make many of the games, we were able to catch the last part of the finals and present the tournament certificate to the champs.

Although many of the fathers in our unit weren't able to be home for Father's Day, everyone I talked to received "the call" that

made it special. It truly is the sentiment of the holiday that means the most, and your unwavering support is what makes this all possible. Although there is still a lot to work to be done we are one month closer to returning home and reuniting with all of you. We remain focused on the task at hand though, and look forward to getting back to the States.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely, Lieutenant Colonel Mike Rapavi Dragon 06

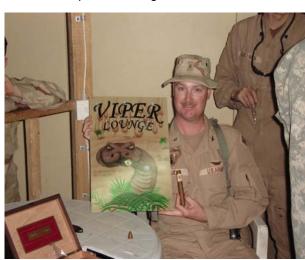
### Alpha Company "Vipers"



Greetings to all friends and family of A Company! Well we reached a milestone this past month. We are now officially past the halfway mark of this deployment. Everyone has been working so hard these past six months that time seems to go by in a blink of an eye. Let's all just hope that it continues to keep going that way.

Well the Iraqi summer has hit everyone full force now. The temperature routinely stays between 110 and 120 degrees during the day and cools off to a "chilly" 100 degrees at night. Crew chiefs and pilots alike are working on aircraft which get extremely hot sitting in the sun. Everyone learned the hard way not to touch the aircraft without gloves in the summer. All the Vipers are sporting the latest in farmer's tan fashion working on the flight line day in and day out. It seems like ages ago that any of us saw a cloud in the sky or a drop of rain. We all cannot wait to see what else the Iraqi summer has in store for us.

In spite of having to work



CW2 Paul displays the VIPER LOUNGE sign

long hours seven days a week, everyone in the company continues to find ways to blow off steam in their own way. The Viper Lounge continues to grow in popularity with more people coming to just relax at night, swap stories, and talk about work (for only a limited time). I brought back some more white Christmas lights when I was home on leave to the lounge is now bigger and brighter. CW2 Larry Paul even airbrushed a new sign to replace the cardboard "Viper Lounge" sign we had. The company also ordered custom made cigars with a Viper label on them. I had a "Company Smoke Out" and presented every Soldier in the company with a Viper Cigar. Some smoked it and some kept it as a souvenir. All in all it was a good time and a way to allow us to blow off some steam, and smoke! SGT Kristopher Woodburn continues to push himself and his group of fol-

lowers in the gym.
Congratulations
goes to him for coming in second place
in the Camp Taji
Bench Press competition, where he
benched 335 lbs!

The Vipers had a bittersweet month as well. It was sweet because SPC Tim Fogarty pinned on his sergeant's strips and joined the ranks of the Non-Commissioned Offi-



Alpha Company relaxing in the gazebo

cer's Corps. His acceptance speech was short and sweet and everyone was thrilled for him. The Vipers also welcomed a new Soldier to the company. Welcome to SPC Anson Cordeiro and his wife Rhiannon, and their daughter Marrya to the company. SPC Corderio served in D Company for the past year and was excited about getting the chance to come to a line company and work where "the rubber meets the road." The month was bitter however because we had to bid farewell to SSG Joseph Smith. D Company needed an exceptional NCO to fill a position and SSG Smith was the perfect person for the job. As much as we all hate to lose him and his wife Trisha, we wish him the best and he will no doubt be an outstanding addition to the Dawgs. Both of them of course will always be welcome to the Vipers and the FRG.

Well another month down, let's all hope that time continues to fly especially through these long summer months. Until next time...

CPT Tim Measner Viper 06

## Bravo Company "Raptors"



Newsflash! June is hot in Iraq. In fact, it is still around 100-105 degrees at midnight. Amazingly, the body starts to adjust and the 115 degrees during the day now does not feel as hot as 100 degrees did just a month or so ago.

June has brought many good things to Bravo Company, despite the heat. The successful elimination of terrorist leader. Al Zargawi was uplifting and welcome news to all of us who spend our days trying to reduce violence and Badges to 1LT Kyle assist security efforts around Baghdad. While we were not directly in support of the mission that successfully killed the Al-Quida in Iraq leader, Bravo Company and the other Dragon and CPT Corey Battalion companies, have supported many operations that may have helped lead up to the final operation near Bagubah. We hope that, along with the renewed efforts of Iraqi Security Forces, will make a difference in the security of Iraq and American Forces stationed here.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the company held a formation to promote crew chief Jason proud of their courage. Young to Specialist. SPC Young is a strong and dedicated performer who

takes pride in his work each and evervdav. I have no doubt he will continue to excel with his increase in responsibility.

During the same company formation, LTC Rapavi took the time to present **Combat Action** Shouse, CW2 Boyde Crawford, and CW2 Andrew "Woody" Welch, James of the Delta "Dawgs." The Combat Action

Badge is signed by the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's Commanding General, Major General Thurman, in recognition of a soldier's performance while under direct fire. These soldiers displayed poise and professionalism under fire and their families should be very

I have already made this point to the

Raptor Family Readiness Group. but I feel it is important enough to be reiterated: everyone who has experienced a yearlong deployment (whether from here or from the homefront) knows that this part of the deployment is the toughest on families. For most of us. R&R is over and there are still several months

until we redeploy home. For spouses, the task of taking care of everything at home becomes harder and harder. Both the soldier and the spouse start to hit mental fatigue and patience runs short. It wears on a marriage. So I ask all of us to keep in mind that these feelings of frustration are normal. Try to give your soldier/spouse the benefit and the doubt and try to not let little issues manifest into big ones through misunderstandings. I will regularly remind our soldiers to do the same for you.

Finally, remember that we hold you close in our hearts and appreciate everything you do for us and our fami-

Thanks for your love and support **RAPTORS!** 

**CPT Andy Caine** Raptor 06



1LT SHOUSE SALUTES LTC RAPAVI AFTER BEING AWARDED THE COMBAT ACTION BADGE.



CPT CAINE AND SGT KENNEDY PIN ON SPECIALIST RANK ON SPC YOUNG DURING HIS PROMOTION CEREMONY

### Charlie Company "Sidewinders"

June is turning out to be a very exciting month for the Sidewinders. We have seen the death of the "Al-Qaeda in Iraq" leader Al Zarqawi thanks to our brother's in arms in the Special Forces in conjunction with the U.S. Air Force. As you saw on the news President George W. Bush made a surprise visit to Baghdad where the Sidewinders provided continuous aerial security while he was on the ground. Also we must not forget that the

This month we're congratulating Ruth Serna on her well deserved promotion to Sergeant. For those of you who don't know her, SGT Serna is a dynamo. She makes everything she touches - better. We're glad to have her on our side.

Army celebrated its 230th birthday on the

14th! GO ARMY!

The temperature continues to rise on Camp Taji, but the Sidewinder team is too busy and too focused on the mission to notice. The crew chiefs continue to do outstanding work on the aircraft, ensuring that all the pilots in the Dragon family are able to accomplish our 24 hour non-stop mission. There are no weak links in this team.



1LT Sparks hangin loose



SPC Jernigan driving C7

The company's pilots have been leading the way all month, flying to the edge and back. It is said that usually by this point in a deployment complacency will start to kick in, but not here! Your Sidewinders are setting the standard as well as the pace; the enemy has everything to fear when the Sidewinders are on patrol!

We're on the downhill slope of OIF-IV and the Sidewinder team is still going strong. Everyone is in good-spirits, but we are looking forward to getting home to our loved ones. All of your support has been appreciated thus far, keep it up! Because you are an integral part of this operation too, we cannot do it without you.

Very Respectfully,

Mark A. Greene "Sidewinder 06" Captain, US Army

#### Delta Company "Dawgs"

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1SG Ricky Belle and I thank you for your continued support. We are now into the most challenging months of this deployment. Your untiring support of your loved ones serves a vital role in keeping them focused and motivated. The temperatures are now consistently over 110 degrees and climbing every day. We will not see relief from that kind of heat for a couple of months. The intense heat, coupled with a relentless schedule on the flight line is making us all better, but also taking its toll in the form of fatigue. As I stated last month, I am hoping that leave will help most Soldiers relax and return with their batteries charged to carry us through the end. I ask that you do your part to continue your outstanding support of these great Americans.

The company has more great news to report this month. The Dawg basketball team won the first ever 1-4 Aviation Regiment Four-on-Four basketball tournament. The team was made up of SFC Rodriguez, SSG Ridgeway, SSG Miller, SGT Hernandez, SGT Whitaker, SGT Rodriguez and PFC McRunells. They defeated B Company and HHC before taking the title in a tough



Delta Company during the promotion ceremony

match with E Company. The final game was highlighted by outstanding defense by McRunells and some key scoring by SSG Ridgeway. 1SG Belle used his skills as a twirler to entertain the crowd at halftime. He also kept the referees alert during the game with the constant threat of the flying trash can. Overall, it was a great night as the Dawgs were victorious and we all had a chance to laugh and have a good time. Great job Dawgs.

Congratulations go to the newly promoted SGT Richard V. Rodriguez. He serves a key role as our supply sergeant and his performance is nothing short of excellent. In short, a well deserved promotion. We also presented well deserved promotions to SSG Zavala and SGT Wongsing. Both of these leaders in the maintenance platoon are exceptional and their efforts are key to the success of that platoon. Thank you for your outstanding contribution to the Dawg team. Further congratulations go to the newly promoted SPC Johnson, PFC McRunells, PV2 Driskill and PFC Latimore.

11 3 12

The Dawgs victorious after the basketball finals

We also want to congratulate SPC Hougaboom and his wife Crystal on their newborn baby boy.

This month we are recognizing another excellent performance by an NCO and a Soldier in the company. SGT Young continues to exceed expectations as our armorer. He carries a great responsibility in the arms room, securing, maintaining and accounting for all of our weapons and sensitive items. Thanks for your professionalism and dedication to the success of this company. Furthermore, I want to recognize SPC Tromp for his outstanding stewardship of our NBC program. As the NBC NCO, he recently received a commendable rating on the inspection of his program and all of our equipment. Great job!

Lastly, I will tell all of the family and friends back in the United States or elsewhere that you are in our thoughts. We will be home before you know it, so hang in there. What we are doing here is important business for the future peace and stability of this region and the rest of the world. We look forward to seeing all of you soon.

All the best, CPT Corey M. James DAWG 06

#### Echo Company "Rough Riders"



Greetings to all from Roughrider 5!

The temperature does not seem to be getting any cooler, but that will not stop the Motor Pool from continuing operations as usual. Despite having most of the Soldiers on guard or on leave we are still maintaining the fleet. Things are slow and this month there has not been a major project aside from making sure the trucks we will eventually pass on are in tip top shape for the next unit. The highlight of this month has been promotions. The Motor Pool is swarmed with Specialists. Some might say we are a special platoon now. So, congratulations to SPC Escamilla, SPC Green-Peoples, SPC Martinez, and SPC Wildes. But, we cannot forget our other ranks and congratulate PFC Francis. The Maintenance Section will continue to drive on and hope the months go by quickly.

The Distribution Platoon would like to welcome Baby Girl Hannaman. On 29 May 2006, SPC Jonathan Hannaman's wife gave birth to an 8lb, 8oz baby Girl. **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE ROUGHRIDER FAMILY!** 

Soldiers of the Distribution Platoon enjoy a little down time between fueling aircraft, picking up / delivering ammo and dropping off water. Between guard duty, night operations, classes and leave, these Soldiers take whatever time they get and make the best of it, while still performing their mission without accident or incident.

The Ammunition Specialist's continue to show their dedication to duty by doing there weekly maintenance of the BN Ammo Holding area for the BN aircraft located on the flight line. They remove all debris, empty cans and boxes and dispensed flare cartridges. This ensures that no debris gets onto the flight line and damages the aircraft. It's an effort that every one participates in. The Fueler's had another remarkable month fueling over 700 aircraft with approximately 156,400 gallons of fuel. Their efforts continue to support not only our battalion but the Blackhawk's, Chinooks, and MEDEVAC helicopters of 2/4 AVN.



Typical day for an Ammunition Specialist in E Co. SPC Hasenauer, SPC Murphy, and PFC Wright just trying to keep the Ammo Pad clean and in order.

#### JUNE 2006 PROMOTIONS

SPC Alardin, Federico (Distro Plt)
SPC Caldwell, Alex (Distro Plt)
SPC Dolgach, Nickolas (Distro Plt)
SPC Green-Peoples, Jireha (Maint Plt)
SPC Gutierrez, (Maint Plt)
SPC Lee, Micheal (Distro Plt)
SPC Martinez, Claudia (Maint Plt)
PFC Francis, Jarred (Maint Plt)
PFC Lichtenstein, (DFAC)
PFC Marquez, Marcello (Distro Plt)
PFC Tieuel, Kavonne (DFAC)

#### JUNE 2006 SOLDIER OF THE MONTH BOARD

SPC Bowers, Rosalinda (Distro Plt)
SPC Simmons, Drew (Distro Plt)
SPC Waller, Allen (Maint Plt)
PFC Tieuel, Kavonne (DFAC)

### "Rough Riders" (cont'd)





Promotion Ceremony conducted in front of the Orderly Room for a whole fleet of Specialist's in E Co. 1LT Aguon (Acting Commander) and 1SG Arnett congratulating the Soldiers on their achievements.

There have been some changes to the junior officer leadership positions. I have taken over as "Roughrider 5" and would like to say farewell to a great teammate, 1LT (P) Perrone, who was the company Executive Officer for over a year. It was an honor to be able to work with such a fine leader. Great Job! We wish you the best with your new position in the BN S3 shop and in your future endeavors. The new Distribution Platoon Leader, 1LT Nicole Davis, comes to us right from that very position that 1LT (P) Perrone took over. Although we say farewell to a fantastic officer, I am sure he knows that he will surely be missed by the entire "Roughrider" team.

Yet another special day is on its way and unfortunately we are not able to be there for it. We would like to extend our sincere appreciations and love to all the wonderful Fathers out there. *HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!* Thank you for the love and support you continue to provide for your Soldier. We pray for many blessings in the days to come. We are now more than half way through in this deployment and are more than ever anxious about reuniting with our loved ones. Roughrider 5, Out!

#### HHC "Stallions"

# STATIONS .

#### Stallion Family and Friends,

Hello once again from the desert sands of Iraq. We have recognized yet another Memorial Day this past month. Many of you may have celebrated back in the states with picnics and parades. The best way that we have been able to celebrate this Memorial Day is by continuing with the mission at hand. Memorial Day began as a memorial for Civil War veterans. It has become a National Decoration Day of family graves, and the holiday that marks the beginning of the summer. Memorial Day has become the most important day of recognition of our armed forces. As many of you have recognized the service of all the deployed troops we would like to send out a special "Stallion Thank You" to all the people involved in Operation Gratitude. These great Americans sent care packages to each and every Soldier in the company. These Soldiers truly appreciate your selfless service and dedication to the support of all the troops deployed in harms way.

More than half of the company has been on leave during this deployment.

SGT Hodges addresses HHC after her promotion

To date HHC has had 52 Soldiers return home for Environmental Morale Leave. Most of the Soldiers have arrived via DFW International Airport and been greeted by some of the most supportive Americans around. Soldiers are cheered, offered water, phone cards, pats on the back and hugs. The scene is reminiscent of a giant Pep-Rally, which serves us well as we enter the third quarter of this game. Although this a joyous time for most families, the anxieties and stress of having only fifteen days with your loved ones can be taxing. I urge you to try and enjoy the small things in life with your Soldier. Try not to spend too much time (and money!!) on big events—you know the small things in life are what count. Try to make memories that will serve as a beautiful reminder for the remainder of

this tour of duty. And just remember that the next time your Soldier comes home it will be for good.

June has been as busy as any other

month in the desert. Major Pat Sweeney, our Battalion Executive Officer departed this month for his new assignment on another FOB here in Iraq. Major Sweeney, Colleen, Seamus, Eileen and the latest addition Liam will be missed within HHC and the battalion. With Major Sweeney's departure comes the arrival of Major Christopher Watrud to fill the position of battalion XO. We would



SPC Baksin working wonders with the computers

like to welcome Major Watrud and Karen to the Stallion family.

On June 1, 2006, Casie Hodges was promoted to Sergeant in a company ceremony at Camp Taji, Iraq. SGT Hodges is a combat medic and Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This rotation will make her second deployment in three years. This is her fourth year of military service and she is looking forward to the next sixteen. SGT Hodges is a former EMT from Blakely, Georgia that is very familiar with trauma cases. SGT Hodges is the middle of three siblings. She has a brother in Guatemala working as a missionary. And her younger sister is performing humanitarian aide for disaster relief victims among the southern states. SGT Hodges works in the Troop Medical Clinic as a shift





leader. I met SGT Hodges three years ago when I was first assigned to the unit. She is a combat proven medic with the drive and desire to complete any mission. She has a quiet yet determined leadership style that will serve her well in the future. She is a very capable and dependable Soldier that will excel as a Non-Commissioned Officer. Congratulations SGT Hodges.

HHC also conducted three junior enlisted promotions on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Deedra Powers of the Commo Shop was promoted to Specialist. SPC Powers is from Dothan, Alabama and was a very welcome addition to the Commo Shop a couple of months ago. She misses her husband who is deployed as well on another camp here in Iraq. Juneanne Tagabuel and Della Thompson were promoted to the rank of Private First Class. PFC Tagabuel from Saipan has been doing excellent work in an already dynamic logistics section. PFC Thompson hails from North Carolina and has truly done well as the Chaplains Assistant since her arrival to the region back in March. Congratulations Stallions, your promotions were truly well deserved.

SPC(P) Eric Baksin is a 25U, from Chicago, Illinois and has been in the unit for a little over 2 years. HHC is delighted to welcome SPC(P) Baksin back from a thirty day tasking. His performance as a brigade retrans shift supervisor was admirable. Some of his duties included monitoring over 12 frequency modulation radio systems that enabled the 4<sup>th</sup> ID's Combat Aviation Brigade to provide critical attack and air support to the Multi-National Division Baghdad. One of the reasons that SPC(P) Baksin was selected for this mission was his ability to work with minimal supervision. His attention to detail and keen ability to resolve complex communication issues ensured that CAB aviation assets were able to successfully execute over 5000 combat hours flown on aviation missions within a 30 day period. He has only been in the military for 3 years and has already shown great potential for increased responsibility. SPC(P) Baksin is very interested in pursuing his college degree and plans to enroll in school upon redeployment.

As time presses on here we find ourselves in the middle portion of the deployment. This is the time that we can not afford to let our guard down. The newness of the experience has worn off for some and redeployment still seems far off. We must continue to trust in our faith, each other and our training to accomplish this mission. As long as we are able to remain focused on the task at hand all will be well. Stallion families I urge you to continue your untiring support of your

Soldiers. These Soldiers are uplifted by your bravery, strength and commitment to them. With your support these Soldiers are able to focus on the mission at hand with the confidence that things are well on the home front.

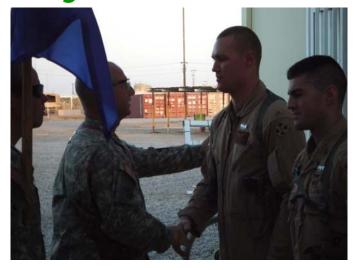
"The day Soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them." Colin Powell

STALLIONS ATTACK!!

CPT Byron C. Needum Stallion 06



CPT Needum speaks to the SGT Hodges, SPC Powers, PFC Tagabuel, and PFC Thompson during the Promotion Ceremony



LTC Rapavi congratulates CW2 Welch on receiving his CAB



SPC Dixon runs a test on SPC Butler's NBC Mask



CPT Hanson's Regulators



MSG Meyer supervises the M-16 range



CW2 Albrecht after becoming a PC



1LT Aguon and SFC Friend out looking for some adventure



1LT Marion and SFC Lizama at the 9mm range



One of our Longbows in front of the Iraqi cross sabers



The Old Viper Lounge



1LT Compton is his starched DCUs is the Range OIC



SGT Bahe completing one of his Soldiers' counseling packets.



SGT Rodriguez and PFC McRunells defending against a Roughrider drive down the lane.



1SG Hampton out for a walk



CPT James promoting CPL Rodriguez to SGT.



CPT James promoting SPC Wongsing to SGT.



SFC Marker promoting SGT Zavala to SSG.



SGT Foreman and SPC Muchunu taking a break as the sun goes down over Taji.



SPC Johnson following his promotion.



The DAWG basketball team shortly after their victory in the 4-on-4 basketball tournament.



SFC Friend heading to work



PFC Saldana and PFC Tagabuel



CPT Needum congratulates SGT Hodges on her promotion



Newly promoted Stallions SGT Hodges, SPC Powers, PFC Tagabuel and PFC Thomas



PFC Danny and SPC Ceja enjoy their care packages



SPC Hines referees at the basketball tournament



CPT Hanson braves the sand storm



SGT Welch in the S6 office, surprise, surprise, surprise



SFC Friend is studying his math tables



SPC Dixon and SPC Rawlings are very close friends



1LT Marion at the 9mm range



1SG Lambert at the Iraqi range



SPC Hines and SPC Guinyard standing in the sand storm



SGT Keister loves the green M&Ms



CPT Needum drinking his Pepsi in the HHC Courtyard



SGT Keister giving SPC Gosvener a friendly kiss



SPC Morehouse and Jernigan, SGT Keister and Woodburn



Goose in the Grease (SPC Gosvener)

#### Chaplain's Corner with Chaplain Captain Hernandez



On several occasion during this deployment, I have been asked to describe the living conditions of Camp Taji. As of lately, this task can be summarized in a single word: hot. Allow me to clarify, hot can be described in all sort of ways. Hot could be the impulsive response after eating some of my wife's homemade salsa, or the hot used to describe a brand new 2006 Mustang Cobra bathed in red paint, sparkling rims, dropped with tinted windows, and a sweet engine that sings better than my mother's parakeet. No, for us, hot is the great scramble for the indoors. Hot is drinking gallons of cold water, a mere deterrent from having the heat violently beating the life force out of us. Hot means sticky stinky and sweaty uniforms layered with perspiration. Ah, yes, hot for us, is really like a gym, offering blazing saunas, sun tans, and unwelcome weight loss. Hot is our life.

And yet we are blessed. For if we daily endure through the physical trauma of this heat, then, we have achieved a sort of physical resilience and a testimony of the enduring quality of our character. Each of us knows that heat unlike anything else is capable of driving our temperaments rampant. However, here in Iraq, we quickly learn that our temperament does not have to become unglued. We must endure the heat, but the heat can also be a measure of faith. I continue to be encouraged with the following words written long ago, "They won't go hungry or get thirsty; they won't be bothered by the scorching sun or hot desert winds. I will be merciful while leading them along to streams of water." (Isaiah 49:10 CEV)" These words reassure us of God's care upon us even in the midst of the desert. A desert figuratively denotes the dry and hopeless moments in life where we are far removed from the safety and comforts of community. Moments like this deployment, when we are distant from our loved ones, where spouses are left to care for their children, coping with the finances, demanding schedules, mowing lawns and cleaning out the shed, alone. Even in these dry moments, God says, He will take care of us. He leads us through the scorching heat and desert winds of life to a special place where we can refresh. We are all looking forward to that place and time when we will return home. For now, rest in knowing that you are not walking alone, God is with you.



Chaplain Hernandez and Chaplain Assistant PFC Thompson in front of a AH-64D Longbow